

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 210338

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, EEC, NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE CALL ON DEPSEC

1. NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE SOMMERFELT CALLED ON DEPSEC OCTOBER 23 AT LATTER'S REQUEST (SOMMERFELT HAD NOT YET HANDED COPY OF CREDENTIALS TO SECRETARY. DEPSEC INVITED CALL AS COURTESY TO FORMER COLLEAGUE IN BONN.). SOMMERFELT'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN WAS THAT NATO CONTINUE AS APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS NOW THAT NORWEGIAN PUBLIC HAD SAID "NO" TO EC MEMBERSHIP. SPECIFICALLY HE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT FRENCH DRAFT OF NATO DECLARATION WAS RESTRICTED TO SECURITY ISSUES. BEYOND THAT HE FEARED GROWING TENDENCY OF EC NATO MEMBERS TO FORM SEPARATE GROUP WITHIN ALLIANCE.

2. DEPSEC SAID WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED DECLARATION TO BE SINGLE PAPER. IDEA OF SEPARATE PAPER HAD BEEN ADVANCED BY
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OUR EUROPEAN FRIENDS, PARTICULARLY FRANCE. HE SAID, HOWEVER

THAT FRENCH DRAFT WAS A GOOD DRAFT AND WE WOULD NOT BE
TABLING A PAPER OF OUR OWN. WE SHARE NORWEGIAN CONCERN
OVER POTENTIAL FOR A DIVISION INTO TWO GROUPS WITHIN NATO
AND ARE NOT PLEASED WHEN THE NINE ADDRESS, AS A BLOC,
ISSUES CONCERNING US WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH US.
DEPSEC OBSERVED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL'S RECENT
SESSION WITH EC NINE REPS IN COPENHAGEN HAD NOT BEEN VERY
SATISFACTORY.

3. SOMMERFELT SPOKE OF NORWEGIAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL CON-
CERN THAT NATO NOT BE A PURELY MILITARY ALLIANCE. HE
SAID WE MUST CONTINUE TO GIVE THE NATO OPERATION THE
GLOSS OF DETENTE. DEPSEC SAID THIS WAS PRESIDENT NIXON'S
VIEW AS WELL AS NOTED U.S. INITIATIVES SUCH AS CCMS.
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES CANNOT BE EXCLUDED FROM
NATO CONCERN. FROM THE PURELY SECURITY STANDPOINT WE
COULD PROBABLY REDUCE U.S. TROOP STRENGTH IN EUROPE BY
50,000, BUT THIS WOULD NOT BE POLITICALLY FEASIBLE.

4. SOMMERFELT EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT AMONG U.S.
PRIORITIES NATO MIGHT "LIMP BEHIND EC NINE." DEPSEC
ASSURED HIM THAT NATO AS WELL AS EC WOULD BE ON THE
FRONT BURNER. WE FOUND THE EC NINE DRAFT DECLARATION
PRETTY THIN AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO STRENGTHEN
IT SUBSTANTIALLY. THIS MADE THE NATO DECLARATION ALL THE
MORE IMPORTANT SINCE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE ATLANTIC
RELATIONSHIP WERE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ECONOMIC.

5. IN DISCUSSION MID-EAST CRISIS DEPSEC NOTED
SECURITY COUNCIL ACTING RESPONSIBLY AND PROSPECTS FOR
CEASEFIRE WERE GOOD. SOMMERFELT MENTIONED PREPAREDNESS
OF NORDIC COUNTRIES TO SEND TROOPS TO HELP MAINTAIN
CEASEFIRE, FOR WHICH DEPSEC EXPRESSED APPRECIATION.

6. SOMMERFELT ASKED HOW NATO SHOULD "HANDLE" MIDDLE
EAST. HE HAD DRAWN IMPRESSION FROM HIS REPORT OF
RUMSFELD STATEMENT TO COUNCIL THAT NATO MIGHT BE
INVOLVED. DEPSEC SAID UN WOULD BE PRIMARY INSTRUMENT
IN TREATING MID-EAST AND WE HAD NO PLANS TO USE NATO AS
SUCH. IN ANY CASE, SOVIET UNION WOULD NOT AGREE TO NATO
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ROLE. WITH REGARD TO NATO WE HAD BEEN CONCERNED THAT
SOME OF OUR ALLIES WERE NOT BEING COOPERATIVE IN SUCH
MATTERS AS REFUELING AIRPLANES FOR ISRAELI RESUPPLY.
IF WE HAD NOT RESUPPLIED ISRAELIS AFTER SOVIET MASSIVE
SUPPLIES TO OTHER SIDE, ISRAEL RISKED EXTINCTION,
SOMETHING NEITHER WE NOR OUR NATO ALLIES COULD ALLOW. KISSINGER

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